BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Five.

(b) The five channels have been earmarked for programmes of :

(i) Entertainment

(ii) Sports

(iii) Busisess News & Current Affairs

(iv) Music, and

(v) Enrichment

No specific time has been allotted for programme to be telecast in Hindi.

(c) In the satellite Regional language service, programme in ten (10) Regional languages are telecast for a duration of 2 hrs 30 minutes each from Monday to Friday.

(d) The Ministry is undertaking a complete review of the satellite channels including interim arrangements.

Liberalisation of the Newsprint Import Policy

1512. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether INS requested the Central Government to further liberalise the newsprint import policy and to put an end to the undesirable protection given to indigenous manufacturers who were exploiting the sellers market by supplying interior quality newsprint at higher prices :

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the suggestions made by the INS chief in this regard ; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFARMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has been demanding liberalisation of Newsprint Import Policy. Consistent with the government's policy of liberalisation, the import of newsprint has already been decanalised with effect from 1-4-1992. To increase the availability of indigenous newsprint, 17 newsprint mills have now been included in Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order. Newspapers can now lift newsprint from any of those mills which offers most competitive rates. The mills are free to fix the prices over which the government have no statutory control.

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (पी०आई०बी०) के कार्यालयों में उर्दू भाषा से संबंधित पदों का रिक्त होना

1513. श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (पी०आई० बी०) के केन्द्रीय कार्यालय तथा देश के विभिन्न नगरों में स्थित इसके अन्य कार्यालयों में उर्दू भाषा के कितने पद रिक्त हैं; और

(ख) इन रिक्त पदों को भरने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० पी० सिंह देव) : (क) ग्यारह ।

(ख) रिक्तियों को भरने के लिए कार्रवाई पहले से ही शुरू की गई है ।

Urdu Newspapers/Periodicals Receiving Advertisements from DAVP

1514. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL Alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of Urdu Newspapers/Periodicals which have been released for purposes of advertisements by D.A.V.P. during the year 1992-93 together with the number of newspapers accepted for the purpose during the said period ;